

# Grace Church Visitor

*A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church*

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

VOL. XXVI

JANUARY, 1915

No. 3

The catechetical class will meet every Sabbath morning in the auditorium at nine o'clock.

We want to organize a men's Bible class in the Sunday school. We want all the men in the church to come into this class.

At the close of the services Wednesday evening, March 10, there will be a congregational meeting to elect an elder and Sunday school officers.

Supper at the church Thursday evening, March 4th, by the women of section No. 1. Mrs. H. D. Dinger, Mrs. F. E. More, Mrs. Frank Leikauf, Mrs. J. W. Brewer are the managers of this section. We hope every member of the church will come to this supper. It will be a good time to get acquainted with the new members in the church. At eight o'clock the men of the church will have a meeting. We want all the men present.

The congregation met for the annual meeting on New Year's evening, in the lecture rooms of the church, but owing to the fact that the dedicatory service of the tabernacle was announced for that every the congregation adjourned to meet on Monday evening, Jan. 11th. At this meeting the usual routine of business was transacted. The reports of the various treasurers were read and accepted and referred to the consistory to be audited. The results of the election were as follows: Elders—W. F. Close, J. W. Brewer. Deacons, H. E. Metzner, David Wilbert. Financial Secretary—W. F. Close. Treasurer—J. W. Brewer. The meeting was harmonious and pleasant. The treasurers' reports are to be found in this issue of the Visitor.

As a result of the evangelistic services there will be many Bible classes organized through the city. This will develop a better knowledge of God's word and only good can come out of it. The more we know about the Bible the more we will want to know. It is the food that Christians will thrive on and it is the moving power in the world that will make people think and act. To search the Scriptures means eternal life.

No church can long exist with a don't care membership. To hang onto the church and retard its progress by an indifferent life is not fair to say the least. It is harder to convert some of these indifferent church members than it is to convert the out and out sinners. A few wide awake church members can not begin to counteract the evil influence of a lot of cold and inactive hangers on. Get your heart warmed up. Get enthusiasm into your life. Dr. Lyon says: "Do something or get out."

The following women of the church constitute Section No. 1, and will serve the supper Thursday evening, March 4th: Managers—Mrs. H. P. Dinger, Mrs. J. W. Brewer, Mrs. Frank More, Mrs. Frank Leikauf. Assistants—Mesdames A. K. Zartman, John Schneider, L. W. Hills, W. L. Hilbisch, Charles Rogers, John Sessler, Frank Shunk, Harry Crall, Mary Gooley, S. D. Zeis, David Copenhaver, Isaac Clippenger, Richard Weller, Catherine Romy, Robert Gavin, A. M. Henderson, Louis Wilkening, D. H. Wilbert, R. F. Dinger, Margaret Boger, May Schaich, George Miller, Lenora McAfee, Mrs. Bostick, Mrs. Adams, and Misses Maggie Haverly, Hazel Gooley, Lorretta Gooley and Beatrice Benninghoff.

## THE REVIVAL

Dr. Lyon's plain preaching of a plain every-day Gospel has penetrated the hearts of thousands of people of this self satisfied city of Fort Wayne. The campaign has been on for over a month, and in all these days the interest has been intense. How could the people tire with such preaching! Every sermon better than the last, full of thought, full of wholesome advice and full of wit and sarcasm that sends the truths home to the hearts of those who are permitted to hear. A study of the personality of Dr. Lyon would furnish material for more than one sermon. A man whose earnest appeal is simply the expression of that deep sympathy for the unsaved; a wholly consecrated man, soul and body, giving the last drop of strength to the presentation of every truth, withholding nothing, but pouring his whole soul into every message that comes from his lips.

He has a keen insight into the hypocrisy of the church member who is trying to serve the world and hang on to the church at the same time.

His denunciation of the double life that so-called Christians are living, pretending to be what they are not, leading souls astray by their inconsistencies, hindering the prosperity of the Kingdom by leading Godless and Christless lives, with only a thin coating of religion, has been merciless. He stands as an adamant rock against the assaults of the enemies of the church and Christ. Nothing daunted by all the vile letters, the unjust insinuations, the unkind criticisms, the opposition of the society gang as he justly calls them, nothing can turn this man of God aside from the one purpose of preaching a straight Gospel, telling the people the unvarnished truth, hitting right and left, uncovering the sham Christianity that is doing the church more harm than anything else, and holding up the Christ life as the only safe life for Christians to live.

Anyone must be very dull of comprehension to miss the one point of every

discourse that the Evangelist preached, namely that the church is infinitely better off without people who are not genuinely given to Christ for His service but who are trying to serve two masters, trying to make the people believe that they are sincere when their actions speak louder than any words can speak, that they are only stumbling blocks in the way of bringing others to Christ.

What a glorious triumph it would be if Dr. Lyon could raise up a church out of all this chaos that would live the pure Gospel, free from carnality, free from the vices that are now clinging to the skirts of professed Christians. If pastors could count upon their members for work, definite self sacrificing work, if church people could be made to feel that they are responsible for the services as well as the pastor, if to the pastors right as in the days of yore he could point to his official board, present at every service, ready for any activity of the church, in place of offering the flippant excuses that they usually offer to a pastor, if on the whole the church would arise in the strength of her power and be willing to help push and pull, no matter what the load, the church would take on new life and there would be no difficulty in winning the unsaved.

When church members will do anything to gratify their desire for enjoyment, visit, loaf, sleep, gossip, take a trip to the neighboring town to transact some left over business, or go on a pleasure trip, anything, yes anything, to take them away from church, there is something woefully wrong with their religion. The church must languish under such leadership; it cannot be otherwise. God's word is true, "If the blind lead the blind they will both fall into the ditch."

There may be some few exceptions, but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it is not the minister's fault when the church does not prosper, but it is the fault of the worldliness of the church, the insubordination, the don't-care attitude on the part of the members.

They have no time for the church when there is anything else to do. Their engagements that they with dignity hurl at the minister when he has something for them to do must always have the precedence.

"You cannot count on me on any night but Monday night for all my other nights are taken up." "Don't ask me to make any sacrifice for the church; I have all I can do for myself." "I had to entertain some friends that could not be done any other day but Sunday." "I have to cut down on my expenses so I must begin on the church." "Make my subserpition half of what it was last year." "Don't talk about foreign missions to me; let us convert poeple at home first." "Don't ask me to belong to any of the church organizations, I have too many other engagements." "If every member of the church is sick please do not ask me to go to see them, I do not like to visit the sick. I really don't object to them coming to see me." "The weather was too bad on Sunday for Sunday school; I was afraid to send the children out, they might have taken cold and been too sick to go to school on Monday, and you know it is necessary that they do not miss a day." "We don't get time to clean the house until Sunday and that keeps us from church in the morning, and we don't feel like getting out in the evening."

Oh, the silly excuses that people palm off on the minister or the Christian worker, supposing that they are so dense as to believe all these transparent excuses, and if they could succeed in fooling the minister, no one can draw the wool over God's eyes. "He knows the secrets of the heart."

So we say, if only Dr. Lyon could save out of this wreckage a church that will give itself to God for real down-right service, and come out of this atmosphere of hypocrisy and deception, there will be much hope for the sinners in and about Fort Wayne. So long as the church is so impotent and so helpless, bowed down with all its vices and

inconsistencies, we can not hope to do much with the unsaved.

What of all these efforts? Will some hearts be left harder than they ever were before? These daily appeals to church members and to sinners mark an epoch in every life that has been touched by these sermons.

Let it not be said of us as in Zach. 7-12: "Yea, they have made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law and the words which the Lord of Hosts hath sent in His spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the Lord of Hosts."

And again as in Gen. 6: 3: And the Lord said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." These days of grace will be ended, every invitation spurned makes the heart harder. How serious a matter it is to hear God's voice admonishing us and to pass it by unheeded.

The hard and unresponsive hearts that the Christian workers came in contact with in the tabernacle are an evidence of neglected grace. Is your heart hard and unresponsive? Are you trampling God's mercy under your feet? Are you deliberately going on in your own sinful way? Do you have no care about the Kingdom and lost souls, perhaps some in your own home? Will you have to say after all these great opportunities have gone by, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved."

"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Mrs. C. H. Gumpper is spending a week with her sister, Mrs. Carl Schaaf, in Covington, Ky. Mr. Gumpper expects to spend a few days there and return home with Mrs. Gumpper.

Mr. Bloid Sauerman has become a member of the choir. We are glad to welcome this young man into our midst. He will be a member of the Young Men's Bible Class. Years ago he was a member of our primary department.

## Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, D. D., Editor and Pub.

Subscription Price, 25 cents per year

### C. E. TOPICS AND LEADERS.

Feb. 28.—What will improve our prayer meetings? I. Cor. 14: 1-12, 26. Evan Williams.

Mar. 7.—How to make this a happier world. Prov. 3: 13-18. Edith Shiffer.

Mar. 14.—Tests of my Christianity. Matt. 10: 16-31. W. F. Close.

Mar. 21.—Favorite books of the Bible and why. John 1: 1-5, 20-25. Bertha Weickart.

Mar. 28.—Home mission opportunities that summon us. Ezek. 34: 20-31. Mrs. Zartman.

### THE FOLLOW-UP WORK OF THE REVIVAL.

The churches will be busy for weeks and months to come with the work of husbanding and conserving the results of the Lyon meetings. Almost five thousand public decisions were made at the tabernacle. Hundreds of these were made by persons who had never before made a public confession of Christ; others were renewals of confession, and fuller reconsecrations to Christ. Many of these people are already in the churches, others will avail themselves of the first opportunity to identify themselves with the church. Possibly four or five hundred of the converts expressed no preference for any one church. These people will have to be cared for at once. They must find a home in some church. Beside those who made a public decision at the tabernacle, there are hundreds of people in the city whose hearts were moved by the Spirit, and are available to the churches, and must be sought out and brought to the Lord. They are sheaves ripe for the harvest and they must be gathered in. Some of these people will come of their own choice and accord and find homes in the churches; others

need the encouragement and prayers of the Christian people. We must win them for Christ. Their coming into the Kingdom will depend very largely upon the interest the Christian people will manifest in them. The church must have a great, warm, loving heart for these people; our passion and ardor and prayers for the unsaved must not decline; we must be alert to our opportunities and responsibilities. Personal workers must now be more active and earnest than ever. Every member in the church should be on the look-out for souls. In our own church we expect to keep up a very active campaign in soul winning for weeks to come. From now on until Easter we will have services at the church once during the week. Cottage services will be held in different parts of the city by the Personal Workers Band, which will be organized. All of these services will be evangelistic and opportunities will be given for people to accept Christ and to be received into the church. We must make the atmosphere so intensely spiritual and inspirational that the people who will come into the church and into our services will find a congenial and helpful Christian home among us. Dr. Lyon truthfully said in his farewell words to the converts and churches: "that some churches were not worthy of receiving new-born souls into their folds, for if they did they would freeze them out." The new converts coming into the churches must receive a warm and cordial welcome into the church, and they have the right to expect enthusiasm and the best influence and Christian example from all the members in the church. Let the church be aglow with the fire of the Holy Spirit and we shall not have any fear for the welfare of the souls that are gathered into the church.

Mr. Leslie Jacobs has accepted the position of organist and choir director of Grace church and will begin his work the last Sunday in February.



**ANNUAL REPORTS****REPORT OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY.**

To the members of Grace Reformed Church: I hand you herewith my report for 1914.

**RECEIPTS.**

|                 | Sub.     | Misc.   | Sp'l    |
|-----------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1st Quarter ... | \$318.95 | \$13.33 | \$20.06 |
| 2nd Quarter ..  | 285.71   | 17.20   | 4.00    |
| 3rd Quarter ... | 245.82   | 8.24    |         |
| 4th Quarter ... | 426.93   | 16.46   | 96.00   |
| Total .....     | 1,277.41 | 55.23   | 126.06  |

**BENEVOLENCE.**

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| 1st Quarter .....        | \$43.46 |
| 2nd Quarter .....        | 53.80   |
| 3rd Quarter .....        | 42.29   |
| 4th Quarter .....        | 61.43   |
| Easter Offering .....    | 41.99   |
| Sunday School .....      | 1.32    |
| Christmas Offering ..... | 16.13   |

Total .....\$260.42

W. F. CLOSE,  
Financial Secretary.

**CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT.****RECEIPTS.**

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Am't on hd. Jan. 1, '14..  | \$ 25.28 |
| Reg. offerings, 1st quar.. | \$318.95 |
| Misc. offerings, 1st quar. | 13.33    |
| Extra offerings, 1st quar. | 23.50    |
|                            | 355.78   |

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Reg. offerings, 2d quar.. | \$285.71 |
| Misc. offerings, 2d quar. | 17.20    |
| Extra offerings, 2d quar. | 54.00    |
|                           | 356.91   |

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Reg. offerings, 3d quar.. | \$245.82 |
| Misc. offerings 3d quar.  | 8.24     |
|                           | 254.06   |

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Reg. offerings 4th quar..  | \$426.93 |
| Misc. offerings, 4th quar. | 16.46    |
| Extra offerings, 4th quar. | 171.00   |
|                            | 614.39   |

Total .....\$1,606.42

**EXPENDITURES.**

First Quarter:

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Paid on pastor's salary.. | \$200.00 |
| Organist's salary .....   | 24.00    |
| Janitor's salary .....    | 44.50    |

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Fuel and light ..... | 25.07    |
| Misc. expense .....  | 7.29     |
|                      | \$300.86 |

Second Quarter:

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Paid on pastor's salary.. | \$250.00 |
| Organist's salary .....   | 18.00    |
| Janitor's salary .....    | 15.00    |
| Fuel and light .....      | 13.94    |
| Misc. expense .....       | 22.09    |
|                           | 319.03   |

Third Quarter:

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Paid on pastor's salary.. | \$195.00 |
| Organist's salary .....   | 26.00    |
| Fuel and light .....      | 4.42     |
| Misc. expense .....       | 19.97    |
|                           | 245.39   |

Fourth Quarter:

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Paid on pastor's salary.. | \$505.00 |
| Organist's salary .....   | 44.00    |
| Janitor's salary .....    | 25.00    |
| Fuel and light .....      | 140.23   |
| Misc. expense .....       | 26.91    |
|                           | 741.14   |

Total .....\$1,606.42

Respectfully referred to the members and officers of the Grace Reformed Church.

J. W. BREWER,  
Treasurer.

**REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TREASURER.**

Fort Wayne, Ind., Jan. 1, 1915.

The following is an annual report of the Treasurer of the Sunday School of the Grace Reformed Church for the year 1914:

**RECEIPTS.**

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Am't in treasury Jan. 1, 1914.. | \$ 46.68 |
| Receipts for 1st quarter.....   | 69.13    |
| Receipts for 2nd quarter .....  | 76.74    |
| Receipts for 3rd quarter .....  | 43.69    |
| Receipts for 4th quarter .....  | 73.05    |

Total .....\$309.29

**EXPENDITURES.**

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Expenditures for 1st quarter...\$ | 50.55  |
| Expenditures for 2nd quarter..    | 104.06 |
| Expenditures for 3rd quarter..    | 2.00   |
| Expenditures for 4th quarter...   | 93.10  |

Am't in treasury Jan. 1, 1915... 59.58

Total .....\$309.29

Respectfully submitted,  
EVAN WILLIAMS,  
Treasurer.

(Continued in Next Issue.)

### Some Things That Dr. Lyon Said That Will Do Us Good to Remember:

The damning sin is not disbelief, but unbelief. The greatest need of this old world tonight is inspiration.

If you want to be saved, there is no power on earth, nor enough demons in hell to keep you away from God.

All about us, on every hand, are multitudes who are spiritually blind, and the saddest element of their condition is that they do not realize their blindness.

If we had our deserts we would have been lost long ago. What we want is not justice, but mercy.

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